

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
November - December 2018

1. Reaccreditation: ONGOING

Creating Action Plan to Submit to AAM Reaccreditation Board by December 14, 2108.

Collections Manager, Maggie Malone has been working on drafting a response to AAM that details the actions that have been taken to address serious concerns in our Collections Department sited in the AAM report.

Reading through the AASLH STEPs program. Focusing on the Collections and Governance sections. The Collections Committee received a copy of the section pertaining to Collections Stewardship and the Board of Trustees received a copy of the section pertaining to Governance.

2. Michigan Museum Association Conference: October 28, 29, 30th in Dearborn, Michigan.

3. Facilities: ONGOING

a. Susan Edwards from R.S. Scott Associates is continuing to work on the architectural drawings for the renovation of space and to address exterior concerns. We have not received a progress report to date.

b. SPRATT CHURCH:

i. On November 8th, Patrick Heraghty, CFNME Director and I meet with the Spratt Methodist Church Board to discuss legacy giving for the Spratt Church. We are hoping to follow up this conversation with presenting to the congregation.

ii. The pastor at the Spratt Methodist Church sent Rob from RH Painting and Decorating to inspect the old Spratt Church and give them an estimate on what it would cost to have the exterior painted. We have not heard back from this company as of yet.

c. See Facility Report submitted by Matt Klimczak

i. Matt has been working diligently with staff and volunteers to get the museum ready for the Season of Light exhibit.

4. Native American Exhibit Project: ONGOING

a. **Friday, November 2nd, Meeting with Jay Sam,** Tribal Historic Preservation Director for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, Michigan

b. Good Design Group has provided two conceptual exhibit drafts for the Native American gallery to date.

c. Considering retaining Charlee Brissett and Calvin Hartwig from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians as consultants for the Native American exhibit.

d. Matt McCormack is continuing to work David Joseph, (Edna Joseph's son) about his Native American family. Matt McCormack has compiled a family tree showing the connection of several Indian families throughout the region. This

tree/diagram will be incorporated into the exhibit. These connections are leading to more individuals and more information.

- e. The Native American Collection: Collections Manager, Maggie Malone is working with Richard Clute to inventory and catalogue the Native American artifacts. There is a lot more work to do to inventory the Besser Museum's Native American collections.

5. Fisheries Exhibit: Work is ongoing.

- a. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant is due December 2018. Jim Johnson is starting to work on revising the original grant application to include the progress that has been made since first submitting it. The progress includes the Good Design Group exhibit renders.
- b. Jim Johnson held a Fisheries Committee meeting and discussed grants and program development.
- c. The committee has reached out to Alpena native, Suzanne Lewis Knight. Suzanne has her PhD in curriculum development and is currently working at UofM with place-based education programming. Suzanne is interested in working with us.

6. Art:

- a. **Juried Art Exhibit** opening reception on Saturday, October 20th was well attended. Vicki Wright worked with Matt to set the exhibit. It looks amazing.
- b. **Erv Lewandowski:** Erv and Mark Beins will be exhibiting in the Wilson Gallery in January through April. I am working on marketing pieces for this exhibit.
- c. **Winter Blues:** The Winter Blues non-juried art exhibit brochures have been created and are starting to circulate. More marketing has to be done for this exhibit. The theme was very popular last year and served as a mini-fundraiser. We hope it has the same success this year. The exhibit will open in February.

7. Special Events:

a. Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run November 23, 2018.

- i. The Besser Museum is in communication with Wayne Calkins, Joe Gentry, Chamber of Commerce, and City of Alpena to host the first, and hopefully, annual Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run. This is a fundraiser for the museum. This event will be an entry in the Christmas Parade. The participants will be the first to leave the parade staging parking lot on 9th Street and run/walk the parade route in front of the parade.

1. Lots of marketing has been done for the Jingle Bell Run, we just will have to wait to see how successful this event is.

b. Mindful Movement at the Museum: Yoga

- i. Yoga will continue through December 11th. We will revisit the idea of continuing with yoga at the museum on Tuesdays. We have consistently had between 4 and 10 students.
- ii. Music Under the Stars, Thursday, December 13th. Paige Trisko and Joshua Stoddard will present a special Sound Bath experience in the planetarium. Tickets are \$20 each with a limit of 50 tickets.

c. GIVING TUESDAY: November 27, 2018.

- i. This year's campaign will be for our collection needs. An announcement was included in the Besser Museum newsletter. More marketing will take place leading up to the CFNEM Giving Tuesday, November 27th online event.

d. Season of Light – Christmas Exhibit:

- i. Decorating the museum for the Season of Light exhibit has taken up the majority of my time for the past three weeks. I have worked approximately seven days a week and many 10-hour days getting decorating.
- ii. DeLynn Medina and Marilyn Thom have been working on the props and other major design elements for the past few months.
- iii. A majority of Matt's time is dedicated to Season of Light while continuing to accomplish the other many tasks around the facility, both indoors and outdoors.
- iv. Museum staff members have contributed time helping with the Season of Light exhibit, decorating the Avenue of Shops, putting finishing touches on exhibit labels, helping with centerpieces, and whatever else needed tending to.
- v. Many volunteers from the community, along with our Community Trees Exhibit, contributed to making this exhibit a success.
- vi. The Season of Light exhibit takes the most work for the shortest amount of time, but also has one of the largest payoffs. We have several private parties booked and annually host approximately 500 students on field trips.
- vii. **Season of Light reception will be on Saturday, November 17th. We have 170 people attending.**

8. Collections:

- a. Maggie continues to diligently work on creating and implementing new policies and procedures. Maggie's monthly Collections Manager report provides more details.

9. Education:

- a. Amanda Kucharek, has been working through developing the Season of Light field trip programs. She will be sending out a letter to areas teachers about the museum's programming.
- b. Amanda also helped to design the activity stations for the Season of Light reception, line up the music and storyteller, and she developed the marketing pieces for the website and Facebook.

10. Planetarium:

- a.** Johnathan has secured a new program for Season of Light – Santa’s Secret Star.
- b.** He also identified a Season of Light program for \$1,500. A grant to the CFNEM Youth Advisory Council was submitted to purchase this program. The Besser Museum will present our grant proposal to the YAC board on Monday, November 19th at 3pm.
- c.** A discussion about offer different discounted planetarium prices during the slow season resulted in a proposal being presented to the Board for consideration.